



September 10, 2014

The Honorable Sylvia Burwell
Secretary of the Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Re: Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP) 2.0

Dear Secretary Burwell:

Indiana Minority Health Coalition (IMHC) is a statewide consumer advocacy agency that focuses on reducing health disparities and works collaboratively with many partners to increase awareness on chronic diseases, as well as other preventive services. We currently fund 25 minority health coalitions/organizations that serve 29 Indiana counties in urban and rural communities representing the most underserved/underinsured citizens in Indiana. Along with our funded agencies IMHC works tirelessly to enhance the quality of life through research, training, education, advocacy and policy development.

Overall, we believe that the HIP 2.0 Plan has the potential to increase access to health care for low income Hoosiers throughout the state as an alternative to traditional Medicaid Expansion. HIP 2.0 offers health coverage at a low cost to individuals who are currently uninsured. We are encouraged by any effort to increase coverage among Indiana's most vulnerable populations.

As IMHC and its funded minority health coalitions/affiliates bring awareness to chronic health conditions and health access issues that disproportionately affect the men, women and children in minority and rural communities around the state, we fully recognize that the HIP 2.0 plan will continue to evolve before an optimal plan for Indiana is achieved. We collectively stand fully committed to assist and participate in that process.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this issue. If there is additional information required please do not hesitate to contact me at 317-926-3036 or via email at n.jewell@imhc.org.

Sincerely,

Nancy A. Jewell, BA, BS, MPA
Indiana Minority Health Coalition
President/CEO